

Amendments to the Specification

Please insert the following paragraph on page 1, lines 1 of the application:

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--Priority is claimed to co-pending application number 09/519,546 filed on  
March 6, 2000.--

✓  
The following rewritten paragraph replaces the paragraph beginning on page 2, line 15  
through page 3, line 4 of the application:

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The inventors believe that the above SmartConnect (SM) concept can be made an attractive feature to Network Operators, especially where STB's are concerned, since the Network Operators assume full control and responsibility of the equipment with respect to the end-users. To this end, the inventors propose to market a programmable, remote control device together with IP-connected GE consumer electronics (CE) equipment, e.g., a set-top box. This remote has a SmartConnect (SM) button for connection via the set-top box to the SmartConnect (SM) service site on the Web. The SmartConnect (SM) server has a database of control codes for most of the commercially available equipment that can be controlled via a remote. The server can also contain information regarding the remote's user-interface (UI's) to the equipment, e.g., button names, graphical user interface panels for a touch screen remote, and other features that support user-interaction with the remote. The user provides to the server information about further equipment he/she has available and would like to be controllable through a single remote. The database is queried based on the user's input. When the proper code sets and accompanying UI data have been found, the codes and UI data are downloaded to the user's STB.

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Preferably, the server or STB enables the user to configure the code and data, e.g., for causing a single action at the remote to execute multiple activities of the user's appliances. This configuration can be formed prior to the transfer of the code and UI data to the remote. The STB enables programming its remote with the downloaded codes and/or UI data, e.g., through an IR or RF transmitter/blaster or a serial cable connecting the STB to a serial port of the remote for unidirectional communication with the STB, or through any other suitable means and procedures.

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